

**DICOT HERBS WITH MOST LEAVES  
SIMPLE AND OPPOSITE**

# Giant Ragweed

*Ambrosia trifida* L.

**Family:** Aster (Asteraceae)

**July-October**

**Field Marks:** This coarse, rough-hairy plant is recognized by its large, 3-lobed, opposite leaves and its terminal spikes of greenish flowers.



**Habitat:** Alluvial soil in fields, along streams, around ponds and lakes, low woods, roadside ditches, disturbed soil.

**Habit:** Very robust annual with fibrous roots.

**Stems:** Erect, up to 15 feet tall, much branched, rough-hairy.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, deeply 3- (or 5-) lobed, the lobes toothed, rough-hairy on both sides, up to 10 inches long; leaf stalks hairy.

**Flowers:** Crowded into small green heads in elongated spikes, the heads either composed of male flowers or female flowers, but both sexes found on the same plant.

**Male Flowers:** About 1/4 inch across, 5- or 6-lobed; stamens 5.

**Female Flowers:** Borne in ellipsoid heads up to 1/2 inch long, each with 4-6 sharp spine-like projections; ovary inferior.

# Swamp Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata* L.

**Family:** Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)

**July-October**

**Field Marks:** This is the only wetland milkweed with lanceolate opposite leaves, pink or pinkish red hour-glass-shaped flowers, and milky sap.



**Habitat:** Swamps, wet ditches, wet prairies, streambanks, marshes.

**Habit:** Perennial herb.

**Stems:** Erect, branched, smooth, rarely hairy, with milky sap, up to 5 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate to oblanceolate, without teeth, pointed at the tip, narrowed or rounded at the base, smooth or hairy on the lower surface, with milky sap, up to 4 inches long, up to 1 inch wide, with short stalks.

**Flowers:** Several, borne in umbels, pink to pinkish red, hour-glass-shaped, up to 1/3 inch long, borne on smooth stalks.

**Sepals:** 5, greenish, turned downward.

**Petals:** 5, pink to pinkish red, associated with a 5-parted central column.

**Stamens:** 5, associated with the central column.

**Pistils:** Ovaries 2, superior.

*Boehmeria cylindrica* (L.) Swartz

**Family:** Nettle (Urticaceae)

## June-October

**Field Marks:** This nettle is distinguished by its opposite leaves and the absence of stinging hairs.



**Habitat:** Wet meadows, low woods, along streams, bogs, marshes.

**Habit:** Perennial herbs from thickened rootstocks.

**Stems:** Erect, unbranched, smooth, more or less 4-angled, up to 2 1/2 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, pointed at the tip, rounded at the base, with 3 main veins, coarsely toothed, smooth, up to 3 inches long.

**Flowers:** Many tiny flowers crowded into slender spikes borne from the axils of the leaves, the male flowers usually on separate plants from the female flowers, each flower greenish white, about 1/12 inches long.

**Sepals:** 4, united.

**Petals:** 0.

**Stamens:** 4.

**Pistils:** Ovary superior.

**Fruits:** Achenes ovoid, narrowly winged, up to 1/10 inch long.

## Purplestem Joepyeweed

*Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus* (Barratt) R. H. King & H. Rob.

**Family:** Aster (Asteraceae)

**July-October**

**Field Marks:** Joepyeweeds are coarse perennials with whorled leaves. This one differs from all the rest by having hollow, purple stems.



**Habitat:** Wet meadows, along streams.

**Habit:** Coarse perennial herb with fibrous roots.

**Stems:** Erect, sometimes branched, glaucous, smooth, usually purplish, hollow, up to 8 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Whorled, simple, lanceolate, pointed at the tip, tapering to the base, toothed, hairy or smooth, up to 9 inches long, up to 3 inches broad.

**Flowers:** Several crowded in small heads arranged in a large round-topped cluster, each head up to 1/2 inch across and subtended by a few small, ovate bracts, all flowers tubular.

**Sepals:** 0.

**Petals:** 5, united to form a tube, pink-purple, 1.6-1/4 inch long.

**Stamens:** 5.

**Pistils:** Ovary inferior.

**Fruits:** Achenes 1/6-1/4 inch long.

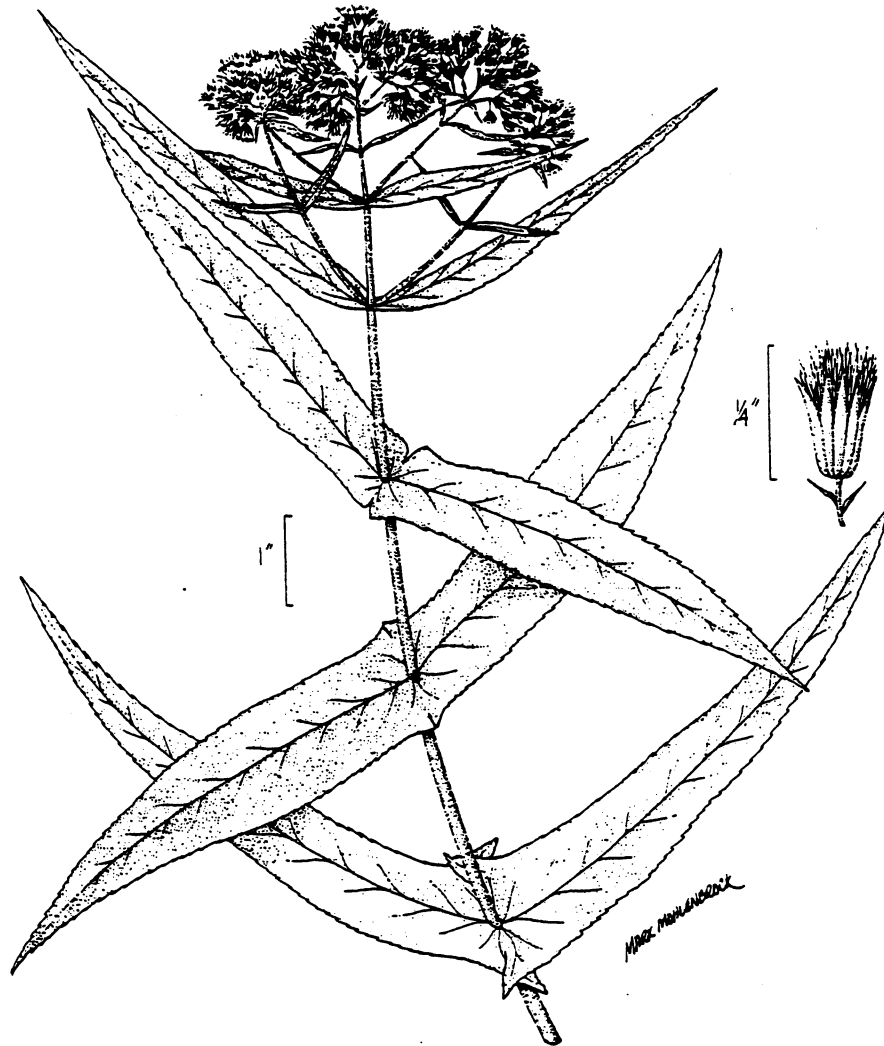
## Boneset

*Eupatorium perfoliatum* L.

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

August-October

**Field Marks:** This is the only *Eupatorium* with strongly connate (clasping) leaves (see illustration).



**Habitat:** Swamps, wet meadows, wet prairies, around ponds and lakes, along streams, in sloughs.

**Habit:** Perennial herb, sometimes with rhizomes.

**Stems:** Erect, usually branched, white-hairy, up to 5 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate, pointed at the tip, strongly connate at the base, toothed, white-hairy, up to 6 inches long, up to 2 inches broad.

**Flowers:** Several crowded into small white heads, with many heads forming a much branched inflorescence, each head 1/6-1/4 inch across, subtended by several narrow, green, hairy bracts, all flowers tubular.

**Sepals:** 0.

**Petals:** 5, united into a tube, white.

**Stamens:** 5.

**Pistils:** Ovary inferior.

**Fruits:** Achenes 1/10 inch long, with a tuft of white bristles.

## Marsh Purslane

*Ludwigia palustris* (L.) Elliott

**Family:** Evening Primrose (Onagraceae)

**May-September**

**Field Marks:** This is a prostrate, smooth *Ludwigia*, sometimes rooting at the nodes, and with opposite leaves and tiny axillary flowers without petals.



**Habitat:** In mud along streams, around ponds and lakes, in roadside ditches, in sloughs, in swamps; sometimes in shallow water.

**Habit:** Annual herb with fibrous roots.

**Stems:** Floating in water or lying flat on the ground, smooth, up to 1 1/2 feet long.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate to lance-ovate, pointed or rounded at the tip, tapering to the base, without teeth, smooth, up to 1 1/4 inches long.

**Flowers:** Solitary in the axils of the leaves, green, up to 1/6 inch long, without a stalk.

**Sepals:** 4, green, united below to form a cup.

**Petals:** 0.

**Stamens:** 4.

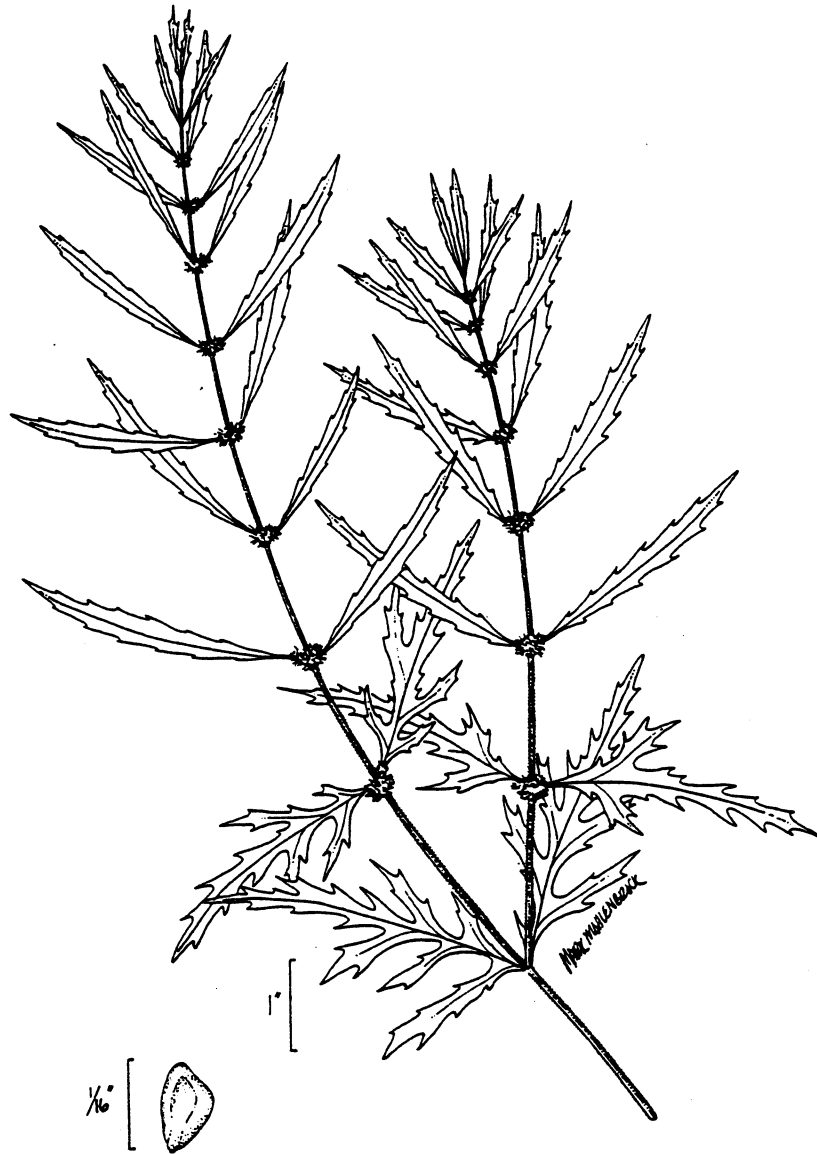
# American Bugleweed

*Lycopus americanus* Muhl.

**Family:** Mint (Lamiaceae)

**July-October**

**Field Marks:** Species of *Lycopus* have axillary clusters of tiny white flowers. The American bugleweed differs from other species in the genus by its long, sharp-pointed sepals and its coarsely toothed or deeply pinnate leaves.



**Habitat:** Low woods, wet meadows, wet roadside ditches, along streams, around ponds and lakes, in sloughs.

**Habit:** Perennial herb without tuberous roots.

**Stems:** Erect, unbranched, smooth, 4-sided, up to 1 foot tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate to lance-linear, usually coarsely toothed or even pinnately divided, smooth, up to 3 1/2 inches long.

**Flowers:** Several crowded in the axils of the leaves, white, about 1/8 inch long.

**Sepals:** 5, green, united below, narrowly triangular, with a sharp-pointed tip.

**Petals:** Apparently 4, white, united below to form a short tube.

**Stamens:** 2.

**Pistils:** Ovary superior, 4-parted.



## Fog-fruit

*Phyla lanceolata* (Michx.) Greene

**Family:** Vervain (Verbenaceae)

**May-September**

**Field Marks:** This species is distinguished by its small purple heads consisting of tiny white or pinkish flowers with 4 petals borne on a leafless stalk.



**Habitat:** Along streams, around ponds and lakes, roadside ditches, wet prairies, marshes, sloughs.

**Habit:** Perennial herb with fibrous roots.

**Stems:** Creeping or sometimes ascending, often rooting at the nodes, smooth or sparsely hairy, up to 1 1/2 feet long.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, pointed at the tip, tapering to the base, coarsely toothed, sparsely hairy on both surfaces, up to 2 inches long.

**Flowers:** Several in short heads on long leafless stalks from the axils of the leaves, white or purplish, less than 1/4 inch long.

**Sepals:** 4, green, united below to form a tiny cup.

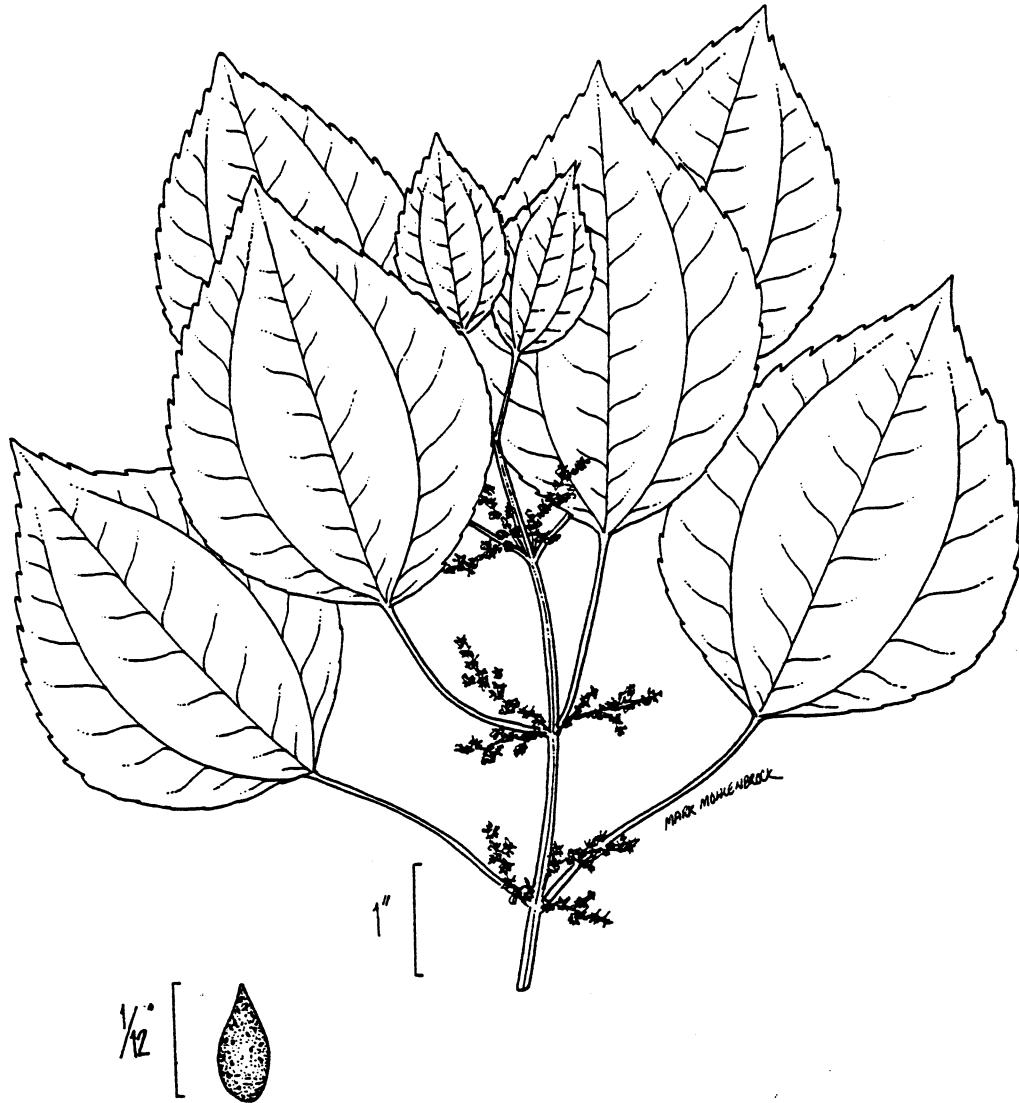
**Petals:** 4, white or purplish, more or less united into 2 2-lipped lobes.

**Clearweed**  
*Pilea pumila* (L.) Gray

**Family:** Nettle (Urticaceae)

**July-October**

**Field Marks:** The clear, translucent stems and the opposite leaves with 3 strong main veins distinguish this species.



**Habitat:** Low woods, along streams, around ponds.

**Habit:** Annual herb with fibrous roots.

**Stems:** Erect, usually branched, translucent, smooth, up to 2 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, ovate, tapering to a long point at the tip, rounded or tapering to the base, conspicuously 3-veined, coarsely toothed, smooth, up to 4 inches long.

**Flowers:** Male and female flowers borne separately in the same axillary spikes, greenish.

**Sepals:** Green, minute, usually 4 in the male flowers, usually 3 in the female flowers.

**Petals:** 0.

**Stamens:** 4.

**Pistils:** Ovary superior.

# Blue Skullcap

*Scutellaria lateriflora* L.

**Family:** Mint (Lamiaceae)

**July-October**

**Field Marks:** Skullcaps differ from all other mints by the swelling on the calyx. This species differs from all other species in the genus by its slender racemes, usually smooth stems, and flowers about 1/4 inch long.



**Habitat:** Low woods, swamps, along rivers and streams.

**Habit:** Perennial herb with slender rhizomes.

**Stems:** Erect, usually branched, smooth or slightly hairy, 4-sided, up to 2 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate to ovate, pointed at the tip, rounded at the base, toothed, smooth or slightly hairy, up to 3 inches long.

**Flowers:** Several in racemes from the axils of the leaves, blue, a little more than 1/4 inch long, bilaterally symmetrical.

**Sepals:** 5, green, united below, with a swelling on the united part.

**Petals:** 5, blue, 2-lipped; the upper lip 2-lobed; the lower lip 3-lobed.

**Stamens:** 4.

**Blue Vervain**  
*Verbena hastata* L.

**Family:** Vervain (Verbenaceae)

**June-October**

**Field Marks:** This erect *Verbena* has broadly ovate leaves, leaf stalks at least 1/3 inch long, and blue flowers.



**Habitat:** Low woods, wet prairies, wet meadows, along streams, in sloughs, in disturbed soil.

**Habit:** Perennial herb with fibrous roots.

**Stems:** Erect, branched, rough-hairy, 4-sided, up to 5 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, lanceolate to ovate, pointed at the tip, often 3-lobed at the base, coarsely toothed, smooth or hairy.

**Flowers:** Crowded into several terminal spikes, each blue flower subtended by a small bract.

**Sepals:** 5, unequal in size, green, united, hairy, about 1/10 inch long.

**Petals:** 5, unequal, united to form a short tube about 1/8 inch long, blue.